1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 69
2	46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Dianna J. Duran
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE
12	LABOR DEPARTMENT TO COLLABORATE ON DEVELOPING A WORKPLACE
13	LI TERACY PROGRAM
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15	WHEREAS, the state board of education has recognized that
16	"literacy is a national priority and must become the priority
17	of all New Mexico citizens, parents and educators" and that
18	"literacy impacts every person's future success and his or her
19	ability to function academically, in the world of work and as
20	an effective citizen"; and
21	WHEREAS, studies confirm that the better educated a person
22	is, the less likely that person will become a recipient of
23	welfare; and
24	WHEREAS, more than two hundred thirty thousand adults in
25	New Mexico do not have a high school diploma or a general

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equivalency degree and more than one hundred sixty thousand adults in New Mexico do not speak English with the ability to be understood, according to United States census data; and

WHEREAS, adult basic education programs currently serve more than thirty thousand students in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the national adult literacy survey found that a person's potential earnings decrease as literacy levels decrease: and

WHEREAS, New Mexico does not have a statewide workplace literacy program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public education and the labor department be requested to collaborate on developing a workplace literacy program and a plan to deploy the program during fiscal year 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public education and the labor department be requested to involve adult basic education providers, the human services department, business and industry representatives, the commission on higher education, the economic development department and literacy experts in developing the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public education and the labor department be requested to present the plan to the legislative education study committee no later than December 1, 2003; and

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	1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
	2	transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and the
	3	secretary of labor.
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